UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/665
30 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued on 18 July 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the
United Nations

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Annex

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Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Recently in some of the mass information media all kinds of "informatio and "analyses" have started to appear, purporting to "explain" the reasons fo the delay in the peace process in Tajikistan, which is supposedly in a virtua impasse at present. Both veiled and open attempts are being made to cast a shadow on the Government's tireless efforts for the scrupulous implementation the provisions of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan firmly rejects this interpretation of the situation. Since the parties to the forme conflict are lagging behind somewhat in the timetable for the implementation the agreements reached, this naturally gives rise to concern on the part of bo the Government and the United Tajik Opposition (UTO), but this situation, whic can be explained by a number of objective and subjective reasons, will in no w affect their resolve to fulfil their duty to their country and people to the end.

At their latest meeting, Mr. E. S. Rakhmonov, President of the Republic o Tajikistan and Mr. S. A. Nuri, Chairman of the Commission on National Reconciliation, noted the unjustifiably slow and unbalanced implementation of the General Agreement, and the extremely weak efforts to prevent violations of it. The two parties reached an understanding on the need to accelerate the implementation of all aspects of the Agreement and expressed their willingness to intensify efforts for the integral implementation of the peace agreements.

During this time a considerable amount has been done. The Commission on National Reconciliation has begun to operate on a permanent basis in Dushanbe. Virtually the entire leadership of the opposition forces has arrived and is living and working in the city of Dushanbe. The Government is taking concrete measures to improve their living conditions, which, along with the further stabilization of the situation, has basically made it possible for the leaders of UTO to bring back their families from exile. UTO representatives have been appointed to six posts in the Government. The process of swearing in the opposition armed formations has begun within the framework of their reintegration into the Government forces, and 600 men have now been sworn in. Over 150 members of the last remaining UTO formation in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have been transferred from that country to their place of permanent stationing. Most of the participants in the former militar political opposition have received amnesty and have been released from their places of detention. The process of the release of prisoners of war and the return of refugees from the Islamic State of Afghanistan has been fully completed. The President of Tajikistan has also sent to the Majilis-i Olii

of peace and national accord, the President vetoed the 'Law on political parties' adopted by the Majilis-i Oli, which provided for a ban on the establishment of parties on a religious basis, and the bill went back to the parliament to be reworked. A number of other steps have been taken aimed at accelerating the process of implementation of the agreements reached. All this demonstrates the firm desire of the Government and UTO to implement the provisions of the general peace agreement.

However, this in no way means that there are no obstacles on the arduous course of their implementation. A number of clashes between individual military formations have caused serious damage to the cause of peace. Because of the inability of the opposition to assemble in one place all the UTO combatants remaining in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, their transfer to the place of permanent stationing has not been completed.

As to the inclusion of other UTO representatives in the Government, an agreement in principle has been reached between the parties on this question. In accordance with the statute of the Commission on National Reconciliation, however, the UTO proposals on the inclusion of its representatives in the Government should be submitted to a meeting of the Commission, and after that its decision would be sent for consideration by the President. However, because of the absence from Dushanbe of Mr. S. A. Nuri, who for the last three weeks has been in the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to bring back members of his family and refugees, the Commission has not yet considered the question or taken a decision on it. Similarly, the subcommissions of the Commission on National Reconciliation have not completed their consideration of the question of making amendments to the 'Law on elections' on the basis of which parliamentary elections would be set.

All this demonstrates that the groundless accusations against the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of delaying the implementation of the provisions of the general peace agreement are nothing other than deliberate disinformation to the world community. In reality, everything possible is being done to complete successfully the process of establishing lasting peace and stability in Tajikistan and to continue under new conditions the accelerated implementation of the programmes for the restructuring of the economy on market foundations and ensuring Tajikistan's stable development.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, once again confirming the Government's resolve for the onward development of the peace process, expresses the hope that the world community and the entire international organization will provide all possible practical, including financial, support to this process and thereby contribute to the rapid attainment of peace and stability in Tajikistan.